HARAMBEE FLAME

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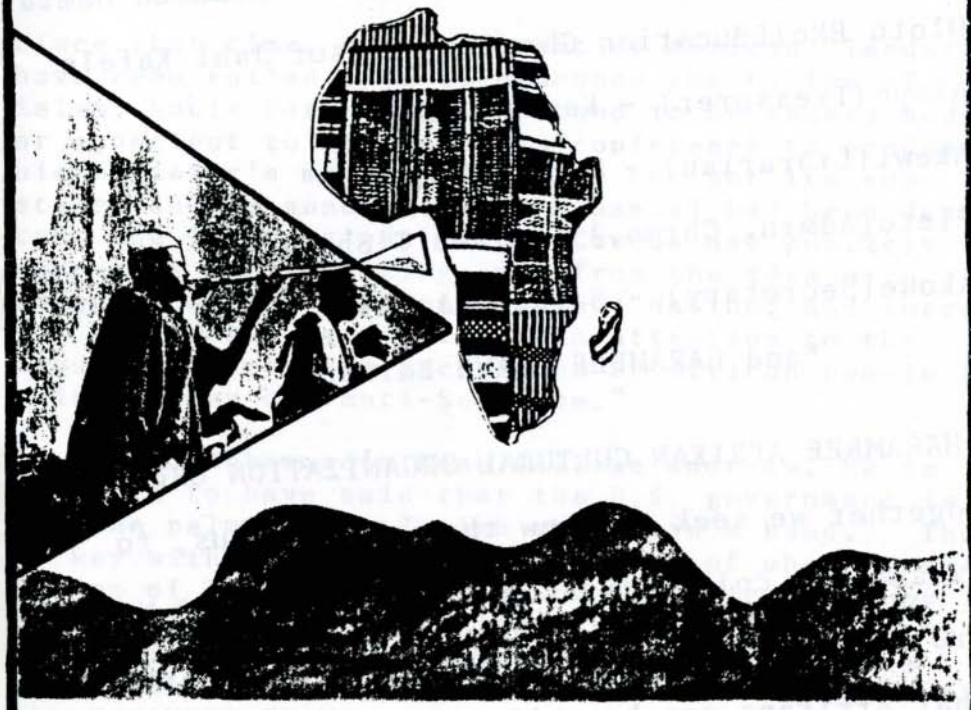

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HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULUTURAL ORGANIZATION

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HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION CREED

Together we seek to know that which is us, to expand our collective consciousness of who we are and whence we come. We exalt in the fact that Afrikans are beautiful in our own right rather than at the expense of any other ethnic group. And in the true spirit of the Swahili word, "harambee," we promote the idea that cultural awareness is germane to human growth.

COMMENTARY

It's old news now. Nevertheless, on November 29th. of last year, Khalid Muhammad of the Nation of Islam, delivered a speech at Kean College in New Jersey. In his speech, he cracked on some people pretty tough, including Caucasian Jews. Tapes of the speech were provided to media and other organizations, apparently by a person or persons not too pleased by what Muhammad had to say.

Since that time, an assortment of African "leaders" have been called upon to denounce the Nation of Islam; Louis Farrakhan has found it necessary and/or expedient to call a press conference to condemn his minister's manner of sppech but not its substance and to announce that Muhammad had been demoted; the Congressional Black Caucus has publicly announced it is backing away from the idea of a covenant of cooperation with the Nation; and there has been a resurgence of media attention to the issue of increasing acceptance by African people in this country of "anti-Semitism."

In Khalid Muhammad's Kean College address, he is reported to have said that the U.S. government is "in the palm of the Jewish white man's hand." This is key with respect to the question of whether the Nation of Islam, as well as other African groups and individuals, are making an error in judgement by singling out Jews in their verbal attacks on Caucasians. In a previous edition(April, 1987) of the HARAMBEE FLAME, we went into some detail to discuss who Jews are and why the frequently used charge of "anti-Semitism" is inappropriate. The following is a brief review of what we said at that time.

Jews are simply people who follow the religion of Judaism and/or who are descended from those who followed this religion. There are African Jews, Asiatic Jews, and Caucasian Jews; just as there are, for example, Christians of various national or "racial" groups. It may well be the case that the

Jews with the longest unbroken history of adherence to Judaism are Beta Israel, the African Jews of Ethiopia. While anti-Jewish remarks are commonly referred to in the Western press as "anti-Semitic," the fact is that "Semitic" is a term that designates language groups, the Semitic languages being: Akkadian, Phoenician, Aramaic, Hebraic, Ethiopic, Arabic, etc. These languages are described as being part of an Afro-Asiatic family of languages. As is obvious from this, Jews form but a tiny minority of the so-called "Semitic" people. Furthermore, inasmuch as a large proportion of people who are adherents to Judaism are Caucasian, many Jews, if not most, aren't Semitic at all.

Since we dealt with these matters in April of '87, CHOSEN PEOPLE FROM THE CAUCASUS by Michael Bradley has been published. In this book, Bradley distinguishes between "Sephardic" Jews and "Ashkenazim" and asserts that the Ashkenazim presently comprise the vast majority of the world Jewish population. He also asserts that this group is descended from the Khazar tribespeople of the Russian steppes who converted to Judaism in about 740 A.D. Thus, according to Bradley, the Ashkenazim are not Semitic and have no ancestral claims to Palestine. Our own experience, as Africans besieged by the system of racism/"white" supremacy in the U.S., is that the Jews we see in positions of power are physically indistinguishable from any other Caucasians.

Now we return to Khalid Muhammad's reported comment that the U.S. government is "in the palm of the Jewish white man's hand." What does this mean? Very simply, it means the government is controlled by Caucasians who are Jewish. But do we know this to be the fact? We do know that the government is controlled by Caucasians and that some of those Caucasians are Jews, some are Christians, and some are of other religious persuasions. We also know that Caucasian Jews have much more influence on the government than we do; that, relative to their numbers in the U.S. population

at large, Caucasian Jews have a disproportionately high representation in powerful institutions--the communications and entertainment industries and financial institutions in particular.

But as we attack racism and the system of Caucasian domination, we should certainly know by now that Caucasians who are Jews have a defensive weapon in their arsenal that other Caucasians do not --namely, the holocaust they experienced under Hitler. When we single out Jewish Caucasians, in our attacks against those who are our oppressors, we are vulnerable to a counter-attack in which we may be labeled "Nazi sympathizers," "supporters of genocide," etc. Caucasian Jews have honed well their skill of parlaying their suffering under Hitler into a potent tool for getting folks out of their faces. We're not pro-Nazi. We know, or should know, that Hitler wasn't just anti-Jew but bent on the destruction of any non-Aryan people. Had he been successful in his drive for global domination, we would've been in more serious trouble than maybe we could imagine.

When we single out Caucasian Jews for attack and are then confronted with the inevitable counter-attack, whatever may have been our main focus--racism, economic oppression, whatever--gets thrown to the side by the Establishment media and our supposed "anti-Semitism" becomes the issue of debate. We get put into a defensive mode and wind up spending precious time and energy having to <u>prove</u> that we aren't "Jew haters." At the same time, African journalists, politicians, and other of our alleged "leaders" and "spokespersons" who are under the patronage or flat-out control of Jewish Caucasians feel compelled to run to the defense of their patrons and/or their patrons' people and are, in the process, pitted against the Africans who have made the supposedly "anti-Semitic" remarks or those who come forward to defend their right to speak. In short, we find ourselves in the posture of having to fight a battle on two fronts--one against Caucasian Jews and their non-Jewish Caucasian allies and one against each other.

Such two-front battles are unlikely ones for us to win. As aware as we are of the power exerted over the media by Caucasian Jews, we should know that we are operating at a distinct disadvantage. Even if we were to attempt to mobilize just our own media organs together in this battle, it is doubtful that we'd meet with success. Who are the advertisers these African-owned newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, etc. primarily depend on for their continued existence?

Omowale(MalcolmX) told us on more than one occasion that we are not oppressed because we happen to be Christian or Muslim or whatever but because we are African. Likewise, those who are our oppressors do not give us the shaft because they happen to be Christian, Jewish, or of other religious persuasion but because they are acting to protect Caucasian power and the idea of Caucasian supremacy. Unquestionably, we must study Caucasians ways, their history, and their institutions --including their religious institutions. But because religion has to do with people and their Gods and because folks tend to be very emotional when their religions are under fire, we should be hesitant to go after our foes on the basis of their religions.

We know that Caucasians sometimes attempt to hide under the skirts of their religions and Jewish Caucasians are most notorious for this. Arrogantly, many of these Jews act as if no criticisms can apply to them because they are "God's Chosen People." When they do so, we have to be prepared to lay bare their hypocrisy. But should we go out of our way to launch unnecessary battles, battles that divert our energies away from the war against the system of Caucasian domination?

-Editor

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HARAMBEE FLAME is the monthly newsletter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization(Nebraska State Pen chapter). Ours is a pan-Africanist publication, meaning that we view all people of African descent as one African people, having certain basic interests in common. Also, the HARAMBEE FLAME attempts to be Africentric, in that, through study of the history, cultures, and traditional values of African people, we seek to have and cultivate an African way of looking at things.

The main purposes of the HARAMBEE FLAME are to stimulate and inform. We list "stimulate" first because, more than anything else, we want our readers to be moved to question their/your own ideas, lives, and the circumstances in which we live and to challenge those things that must be challenged in order for us to move from a condition of mental and spiritual servitude and physical dependence upon Caucasian institutions to a state of collective self-determination. Toward this purpose, we present commentaries, poems, etc. These do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization.

The HARAMBEE FLAME provides information because wise people want to know what's going on and because certain kinds of information can stimulate the mind, inspire people to want to act, and influence them to pursue proper understanding so that the actions they take will be as effective as possible. The main vehicle we use to provide information is our "From Other Sources" feature in which we make an effort to provide news about the problems we African people are confronted by and the steps we are taking to resolve them. In this feature, we try to provide coverage of the activities of African people and developments affecting us in the U.S., Africa, and elsewhere. "Community News" is another vehicle.

We encourage you to submit your reports, essays, poems, etc. Please enclose stamped return envelope.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

Legislative Alternative to Clinton "anti-Crime" Agenda Offered by Representative Washington

"The only alternative to the build-and-incarcerate juggernaut to come out of Washington, D.C., this session is the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Reform Act, introduced by Rep. Craig Washington, D-TX. Among other things, this bill, H.B. 3315, would incorporate - and, in some cases, reinstitute - legal protections for capital defendants and those already on Death Row.

"As written, the bill would prohibit the imposition or execution of the death penalty in a racially discriminatory pattern. This provision, known as the Racial Justice Act, is intended to provide protection particularly for African Americans sentenced to death in Southern states, where studies conducted during the 1980s demonstrated the continued existence of discriminatory application of the death penalty. A separate provision of H.B. 3315 permits death-sentenced defendants to have their claims of racial discrimination heard in federal courts, so long as the claims are made within one year of enactment of the bill into law.

"Another critical provision of H.B. 3315 would require states to appoint competent, adequately paid attorneys for indigent defendants facing capital charges..."

-from "Crime Bill Juggernaut," page 3, March COALITION FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS NEWSLETTER (Santa Fe, N.M.)

More On "Anti-Crime" Agenda

"...the Senate version of the Crime Bill outlaws 'criminal street gangs', giving five years to 20 years for various levels of involvement. Howe-

ver, given that Black and Latino males have been tracked for the past 10 years in data bases for driving through certain areas of town, wearing certain clothing or talking with a friend, getting caught in the infamous 'gang sweeps' of 1980s(where most of the time police didn't even get half the people they were targeting), their civil liberties are in the greatest jeopardy.

"Crimes carry five year sentences on federal charges, whereas they would be less in the state. Juveniles are tried as adults where federal guideline sentencing would eliminate departures for extenuating circumstances...any parent or legal guardian of a juvenile convicted of a federal offense may pay a fine up to $10,000 and do community service for not exercising 'reasonable care' in controlling the child's behavior. The Senate version calls for jail time(five years) for each use of a communication facility(telephone) to commit a predicate gang crime or to solicit one to join a gang, which means phone taps of any youth with any associations unbeknownst to the receiver of the call..."

-from "Premise Behind The New Crime Bill; Who Are The Real Targets," pages 24 and 25, March 16 THE FINAL CALL(Chicago, IL.)

Note: "State" in the above refers to California.

DARE Program Critiqued

"...Ross Culverhouse, Executive Director of Minnesota Parents Against DARE...has documented at least nine studies which show that the DARE(Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program does not reduce drug use among those adolescents who have gone through the program as compared to control groups who have not. The brainchild of former Los Angeles police chief Daryl 'Let's shoot the casual drug users' Gates, the DARE program is intended to get children to spy on and turn in their parents if they use illicit drugs....

"There are big bucks involved for cops who partici-

pate in the program: 15,000 trained DARE officers, with annual revenues at around $700 million. DARE is a $2 million item for salaries alone in the San Diego Police Department...To get their money, DARE cops only have to undergo a two week Training Certification Program, whereas certified classroom teachers receive four years of training ...

"In the words of Maddy Webster of the Massachusetts Cannabis Refor Coalition in 'DARE: An Information Paper', 'No one, including parents, teachers, state and local school officials and administrators is allowed to review the DARE 'Instructor's Guide'. Rep. Cramer and Sen. Heflin of Alabama were unable to obtain copies for concerned parents...In Winchester, Mass. first graders were sent home with an assignment to go through the family medicine cabinet and list all the contents'.

"DARE promoters target a school district and one school is chosen to initiate a piolot program for fifth graders. The DARE Implementation Guide gives officers step by step instructions on handling the community and the media. Parent meetings are not held until 6-8 weeks into the program. Parents cannot see children's workbooks until after 'graduation'..."

-from "Iowa Parents Against DARE Organizing," page 9, Vol. XV/Issue I THE IOWA IDEA(Iowa City, IA)

Classified Documents Detail So. African Nuclear Program

"Classified documents relating to South Africa's nuclear arms program published in the latest issue of a London-based newsletter reveal the scope and sophistication of a project which the Pretoria government only acknowledged last year.

"The revelations--made by...Africa Confidential--show that throughout the 1970s and 1980s, South Africa was attempting to manufacture nuclear weapons, and collaborating with Israel to do so...

"The documents detail how Brigadier Johan Blaauw--a World War II veteran and a major player in the country's nuclear prorgram--made regular trips to Israel in the 1970s and early 1980s and negotiated a deal whereby the latter supplied South Africa with tritium, a key ingredient in nuclear arms manufacture.

"...In exchange it supplied Israel with uranium oxide for that country's own nuclear program.

"The program progressed to such a stage that by 1985, according to Pretoria's submission to the IAEA(International Atomic Energy Authority) last September, they were planning a 150 megawatt reactor capable of producing both tritium and plutonium --and bombs with a range of over 1,500 miles...

"In 1987 Mr. Blaauw was tried on charges of possessing secret documents about the Koeberg nuclear power reactor and of the attempted blackmail of the former Labor and Mines Minister Fanie Botha..."

-from "Secret Papers Detail Sophisticated Nuclear Program In South Africa," pages 13 and 14, March 16 THE FINAL CALL

Africans In Nicaragua Face Problems Since Fall Of Sandinista Government

"There are two Nicaraguas says Ray Hooker. One is where the Spaniards on voyages from Europe went and wiped out the indigenous peoples: the Pacific region...The Atlantic region is the region running along the Atlantic coast, an area of tropical rainforest and mineral wealth.

"Because of the region's thick vegetation, the Spa-

(cont. on page 13)

GUEST COMMENTARY

Note On Reparations: The First Slaves Were Captured, Not Sold

Black African contact with other peoples of the world from the West African coast is older through the Saharan route, reaching Europe via the Mediterranean, than the Atlantic. It is refreshing to recollect that the first slaves were captured, not sold, and those sold had to be baptized and permit the footnote, "reminiscent of the condemned at the stake."

Some fifty years before Christopher Columbus reached America--1441, to be precise--a Portuguese ship tried to sail as far west as possible of the West African coast to gather hides and skins of animals, "curiosa," hitherto unknown in Europe. Its captain was Antam Goncalves, who decided to take some human beings/natives as samples to present to his king, Prince Henry of Portugal. These were the first black African slaves in Europe through the Atlantic coast.

The Portuguese chronicler, Azurara, has described the details of how Goncalves and his crew followed footsteps, imprints upon landing, captured at first a single man, over-powered a woman, and took them to the ship. He returned to Portugal with twelve captives in all, whom he presented to Prince Henry, who was overjoyed and sent Goncalves on more expeditions, expressly with a commission to bring more people. A result was that it soon became the fashion in Lisbon to have a black servant. This was the origin of the slave-trade, with a low volume at first, which was heightened after 1509 when the Dominican priest Las Casas initiated the shipment of blacks to middle America to relieve the extinguishing Indians.

In 1517, Charles, who later became Emperor

(cont. on page 12)

KUUMBA

LIFE

I am invisible

when I do right
I cannot be seen

I am invisible

when I talk softly and respectful
I cannot be heard

I am invisible

when rewards are passed out
there are none for me

I am invisible

when it is time to advance
my name is not on the list

I am invisible -but-

let me cry out in anger?
I am beaten down

let me lash out in frustration?
I am locked away -then-

I am no longer invisible.

David W. Landers

Nebraska State Prison

Charles V, gave the monopoly on the black(negro) slave-trade in Spanish colonies in America to the Flemish, whenceafter, the trade became triangular, perambulating between Europe, Africa, and South America. And from 1619, North America, with human cargoes exchanged for European finished products--including Dane guns--assured more cargoes and American raw materials. And by the middle of the 17th century, the trade had grown so enormously--as England, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain imported raw materials derived/gained through the work of slaves on American plantations--that Europe's economic expansion came to be built on the slave-trade. This went on, perhaps, unabatedly, until 1727 when the American Quakers demanded the abolition of slavery, which was pretentiously "justified" on the professed inferiority of the black race.

While we are temporarily at peace and are witness to some rupturing of the balloon of damages and degradations done to the black race, we cannot disregard the 1454 papal bull(a document signed by the pope) of Nicholas V, which gave the Portuguese the right to own all "discovered" lands of Cape Bojador, subdue and enslave the human beings living there, provided they were, first of all, baptized. The slave-traders fulfilled this condition by baptizing whole ship-loads of slaves omnibus(ly). A lot of prejudices against which Christians of the middle ages had battled were now heaped on the Africans. Those on the coast were ready to bring slaves from the hinterland in order not to be enslaved themselves.

If the labour of our heroes past are not to be in vain, then that labour must, in full value, be retrieved. And that value, I profess, is calculable by a formula/equation which this writer has already circulated restrictively. Blacks have no reason to be ashamed of their role in world history. For, if some other people provided the capital and lever for the

(Cont. on page 14)

niards - after landing on the Atlantic coast in search of gold and other treasures - took their expeditions across the continent to the Pacific coastal region where mining was easier. But there was another reason the Spaniards didn't stay in the Atlantic region. "We fought them to a standstill', Mr. Hooker says.

..."A place where slaves on three occasions escaped their ships and sought re uge among the native peoples, the Atlantic region was recognized by the previous Sandinista government of Daniel Ortega as an autonomous region. Since the election of the US backed administration of Violeta Chamorro, self rule for the region has been ignored...Before the new government took over there was 10 percent unemployment, today it is 60 percent...

"Mr. Hooker further explained that the U.S. government, headed by President Reagan, was frightened by the 'example' the Sandinista revolution would mean to oppressed peoples all over the world, because of the accomplishments of the Sandinistas. He blames the former president for the massacres of Black and native Nicaraguans at the hands of the US-backed Contra rebels. He reports of towns attacked and productive infrastructures destroyed by American trained soldiers...

"Mr. Hooker says that his fight is to eradicate the mental oppression of his people who view themselves as inferior and to bust up the superior mentality that the lighter skinned Spanish speaking rulers have...

"'As a people, we must achieve a minimum degree of unity in order to successfully force the central government to recognize our rights', he says."

-from "Black Nicaraguans Suffer Under New Regime," pages 4 and 17, Jan. ARM THE MASSES(N.Y., N.Y.)

world's prosperity, blacks have provided a substantial part of the labour force--like workhorses for the master--and raw materials since the beginning of the slave trade and its continuum today. Sometime, somehow, somewhere, the flower of justice will blossom and its radiations will heal vehemently bleeding, scalded, scabbarding hearts, souls, and spirits--scorched since ages past and confronting economic scaffolds of the moment.

-Prof. Tunde Okanlawon
Port Harcourt University
Nigeria

GUEST COMMENTARY

It shouldn't surprise any Afrikan in America that the government is talking about employing some 100,000 more police officers, the majority of whom will undoubtedly be Caucasian. It also shouldn't surprise any Afrikan in America that this infusion of police into our communities would be, as I believe, part of a continuing conspiracy. This is not said to promote paranoia with regard to everything with a Caucasian stamp of approval on it. But it should be taken as a given that the United States government is--and probably always will be--opposed to the interests of African people and that its actions are, predictably, counter-productive insofar as our needs are concerned. 100,000 more police officers means the building of more prisons to house the so-called "criminals" who will be arrested.

More than 70% of the people who will be arrested in this country will be Afrikans. And the problem with this, besides the simple fact of the imprisonment of these brothers and sisters, is the glaring discrepencies in sentencing by which Afrikans wind up doing longer sentences than Caucasians for the same crimes.

With the forthcoming agenda that this country is

(Cont. on inside back cover)

BACK IN TIME

In ancient Afrikan societies, the king's throne was referred to as his mother's lap because it is through the female line that he receives his power and the king was not the king until he had been annointed by the queen. For it was then ardently believed that it was only by the power of the female force that man had achieved civilization in the first place. Therefore, there would not be a nation if it were not for her. She established the whole concept. In retrospect, what appears to have occurred with the process of time, even though women ruled on the throne for long periods, in many cases women became weary of direct rulership as the Earth became less peaceful. So they opted to put most of their energies into cultivating the social systems that kept true civilization alive. At first in making this choice, women lost no real power because the man who ruled as a custodian of the nation was her son and could only rule by her consent. In those days she was the initial formulator of men's attitudes and social consciousness. She determined what the society would believe in, what they would fight for, and what they would strive to achieve in life. Notwithstanding the guidance of the males as father forces in the community, all this was basically implanted in the mind of the child through the inspiration of mother because most of the early impressionable years were spent with her. She was the nourisher, the first stage of inspirational motivation in a person's life. Even then "the hand that rocked the cradle ruled the world."

Source: AFRIKAN WOMAN: THE ORIGINAL GUARDIAN ANGEL by Ishakamusa Barashango

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greater Omaha Community Action, in cooperation with other North Omaha community services agencies, will be holding the first annual "The Black Family Summit" on April 15 and 16 at North High School, which is located at 4323 No. 37th St. in Omaha. Sponsors state that the purpose of the summit is to develop means to enhance the quality of life in the African community through addressing issues that affect the African("black") family. Among the specific issues to be addressed are: home and family, youth, criminal justice, etc. For additional information, contact Dr. Ben Ebong at 341-8060.

The Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization(state prison chapter) will be holding its annual banquet on June 12 in Lincoln. Contact 471-3161, ext. 3380.

The Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization wishes Muthuzi Kenyatta(Carlos Henry) the best of fortune. He is in Colorado for hearings regarding his possible parole. We wish to welcome Kenny Walker as a new member of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization Central Committee. He is filling the unexpired term of Kenyatta as Akapo (Treasurer) for the Organization.

The African American Museums Association will hold its annual conference on August 25, 26, and 27 at the Swissotel in Chicago, Illinois. It will be hosted by the DuSable Museum of African American History of Chicago. With the theme "The Future of the Past: Planning to Educate America in the 21st Century," the conference will deal with philosophical issues relating to the purpose--past, present, and future--of African American museums, as well as explore basic museology topics. Contact Jocelyn Robinson-Hubbuch at (513) 376-4944. Or write to: AAMA, P.O. Box 548, Wilberforce, OH 45384.

pursuing(more police and more prisons), we Afrikans will do well to adhere to an agenda of our own. It is imperative that we be about the business of turning our brothers and sisters away from lives of crime and not turning them over to the slaughter that this American legal system imposes.

We must not buy the fascist propaganda and seek Eurocentric solutions for Afrikan problems, and, in the meantime, continuing to invest less than a primary concern about our people. And with 25% of our brothers and increasing numbers of our sisters, between the ages of 15 and 25, ending up in prison, our situation is a cause for alarm.

As part of the solution, we must begin to pool all our community resources and have them working for our betterment. The churches must be involved, the community organizations, and every agency that is geared toward the development of our communities must be involved. We must exercise the power of the principle of Ujima(Collective Work and Responsibility) to build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and solve them together.

Sound the alarms. Let us awaken the sleeping giants; for there's plenty of work to be done.

-Yusuf Jahi Kafele

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